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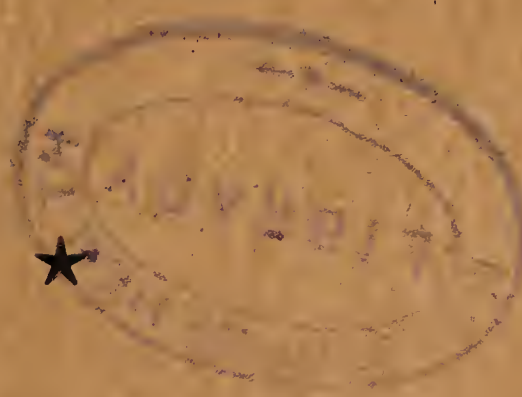
Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

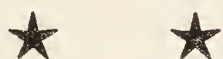
FOR THE YEAR

1955



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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



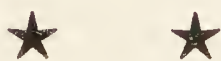
Annual Report

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FOR THE YEAR

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VITAL STATISTICS

1939 — 1955

Population :

Scale 20,000-27,000

Births :

Scale 280-420

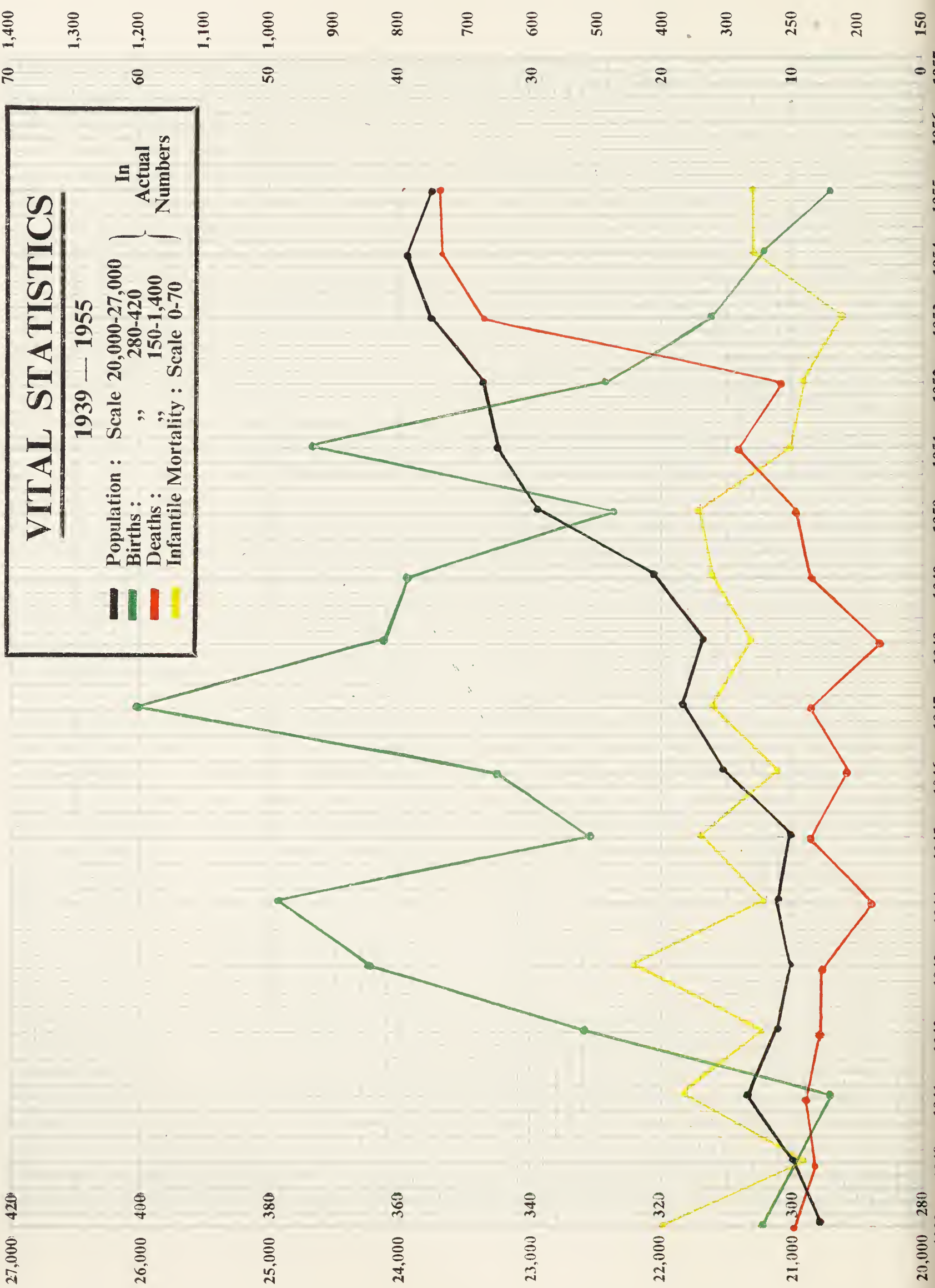
Deaths :

Scale 150-1,400

Infantile Mortality :

Scale 0-70

In Actual Numbers



**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1955**

Chairman of the Health Committee :
COUNCILLOR F. S. DEWS

Medical Officer of Health :

S. C. J. FALKMAN, L.R.C.P. (Ed.), L.R.C.S. (Ed.), L.R.F.P. and
S. (Glas.), L.M.Rotunda (Dublin), D.R.C.O.G. (London),
D.P.H. (Durham).

Fellow of the Society of Medical Officers of Health

Member of the British Medical Association

Member of the Medical Protection Society.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent :

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

R. B. M. ANDERSON, A.R.S.H., A.I.P.H.E., M.R.I.P.H.H.,
M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

J. KIRK, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector
(Appointed 15th April, 1955).

Pupil Sanitary Inspector :

C. WILKES (left 31st August, 1955).

Public Health Clerks :

MRS. F. DETHERIDGE

MISS S. A. OAKLEY

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1955. During the reporting year the Council maintained its progress in Housing and Development and on the 11th November, 1955, the Kent Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas were confirmed by the Minister. At the end of the year, on the 6th December, Official Representation was made by the Medical Officer of Health with regard to the Duke Street and Holloway Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas comprising in total 23 houses with 76 inhabitants.

The Water supply of the Urban District has been satisfactory and the need for new Sewage Works in the Lower Gornal area is outlined by the Surveyor in his contribution to the Report. He has further mentioned the overloading of all the Sewage systems in the Urban District.

The Municipal Cemetery was opened for burials in the year 1954, and is now administered by a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of the Sedgley Urban District, the Brierley Hill Urban District and the Dudley Corporation. The designs for the proposed Crematorium were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

With regard to Infectious Diseases a heavy incidence of Measles occurred during the year with a total of 503 notified cases, but, with this exception, the year proved on the whole to be uneventful. One case of notified Poliomyelitis receives comment in the appropriate section of the report. The case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was fortunately not of the Gram negative type. Ten cases of Pneumonia have been notified which were no doubt due to the very severe weather conditions during the winter.

Considering the Graph of Vital Statistics we find that a slight decrease in population becomes apparent from 23,860 in 1954 to 23,740 in 1955. This decrease coincides with a decrease in Births from 304 in 1954 to 293 in the year 1955. The Births have shown a steady decline since the year 1951. The population, in contrast, continually increased since the year 1948 and only now reflects a slightly downward curve.

The Deaths in the population declined from 742 in 1954 to 726 in 1955. It is a small figure and will not show a marked curve in the Statistical Graph.

Infantile Mortality remained on the same level counting 13 deaths both for 1954 and 1955. Four of the deaths were due to Congenital Malformation and Asphyxia. The remaining 9 deaths all occurred under the age of one month. A table is shown on page 10 of the Report. The great majority fall in the group of Birth Trauma which remains a steady feature in the reports and much research is needed before this persistent factor can be eradicated. The Infantile Death Rate for Sedgley proper is 40.95 against 44.37 for the Urban District as in the latter the deaths in Burton Road Hospital have been included. This same administrative measure is the cause of the sudden steep rise in the general deaths in the year 1953 as clearly outlined in the Graph.

In the Graph for Tuberculosis we notice a further decline in deaths from 7 in the year 1954 to 3 in the year 1955. New notifications of Tuberculosis have however risen to a total of 18. Although modern methods of treatment have succeeded in reducing deaths in considerable numbers it remains to be seen whether the actual incidence of the disease will keep the same pace. So far the signs are negative and if one considers the notifications since the year 1939 the present number of new notifications does not lag far behind, compared with those 16 years ago.

From a Public Health point of view the Tuberculosis problem is of greater importance than Poliomyelitis, of which both notifications and deaths are small. In consequence the rehousing of Tuberculous persons remains the greatest concern of Sanitary Authorities and should never be allowed to slacken in order to safeguard the health of the population and to prevent the most productive age groups from falling victims to the disease.

As a class, people suffering from Tuberculosis have endowed humanity with great gifts. We have only to think of composers such as Mozart, Chopin, Schubert and Schumann; of painters such as Botticelli and Watteau; of poets such as Edgar Allan Poe and Keats to know that these patients, in the course of their malady, have given us treasures of Art, Literature and Music more precious than the vaults of diamonds rubies and zircons of which Sheherazade told us in the Arabian Nights.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

S. C. J. FALKMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1955

Area: 3,830 acres.

Population: 23,740.

Number of Inhabited Houses: 6,771.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate: £425.

Rateable Value: £107,789.

General Rate: 24/6d.

Birth Rate: 12.34; England and Wales 15.0

Average Birth Rate for ten previous years: 15.36 (Sedgley).

Death Rate: 30.58; England and Wales 11.7

Average Death Rate for ten previous years: 14.62 (Sedgley).

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 44.37

England and Wales: 24.9

Average Infantile Death Rate for ten previous years: 37.16
(Sedgley).

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis: 3

From other Tuberculosis Diseases: 0

Respiratory Tuberculosis Death Rate: .126

From other Tuberculosis Diseases: Nil

Average death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis for ten previous years: .32 (Sedgley).

Average death rate from other forms of Tuberculosis for ten previous years: .067 (Sedgley).

The numbers of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1955 are as follows:—

	NUMBERS			RATE		
	Males	Fe- males	Per- sons	Males	Fe- males	Per- sons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	4,174	1,664	5,838	195	72	131
Other Tuberculosis	.. 361	294	655	17	13	15

VITAL STATISTICS

		TOTAL	M.	F.	Birth Rate
Live Births		293	147	146	12.34
Legitimate	..	284	145	139	
Illegitimate	..	9	2	7	
Stillbirths: Total 11.					
Rate per 1,000 Total Births	..				36.18
Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth:					–
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:					
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (13)					44.37
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births					–
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					83
Deaths from Measles (all ages)					–
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					–
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	..				1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1955

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	2	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	16	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	16
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1
16. Diabetes	2	6
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	50	39
18. Coronary disease, angina	23	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	8
20. Other heart disease	69	82
21. Other circulatory disease	16	20
22. Influenza	6	3
23. Pneumonia	8	5
24. Bronchitis	34	9
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	85	108
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—
34. All other accidents	7	18
35. Suicide	2	2
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
TOTAL	365	361

AGE-GROUPS and LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1955

DISEASE	Total All Ages	Sex		Under 1 year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Sedgley	Upper Gornal	Lower Gornal	Goldthorn Park	No. of Deaths in 1955	
		M.	F.														M.	F.
Scarlet Fever ..	5	3	2	—	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	25	8	17	1	3	10	11	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	15	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Measles ..	503	263	240	14	98	146	241	4	—	—	—	—	149	80	225	49	—	—
Pneumonia ..	10	7	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	3	—	1	6	8	5
Erysipelas ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
	548	281	267	17	101	157	255	5	2	4	5	2	161	83	243	61	8	6

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1955

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Haemorrhage from Umbilical cord	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformation of central nervous system	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Cerebral Oedema and Sub-arachnoid Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Partial bilateral Congenital Atelectasis ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bilateral Haemorrhagic Pneumonia (Influenzal)	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Asphyxia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Congenital renal Hypoplasia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Congenital heart disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
In Burton Rd. Hospital	8	—	—	1	9	1	2	—	—	12
Spina Bifida	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
	8	—	—	1	9	1	2	1	—	13

Infantile Death Rate:—

Sedgley Proper: 40.95.

Total Infantile Death Rate: 44.37.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

One case of the disease was notified in the Sedgley Urban District during the year. It was not due to a Gonococcal Infection.

HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Officer of Health holds office in virtue of a joint appointment by the Sedgley Urban District Council, the Tettenhall Urban District Council and the Staffordshire County Council. Of his time 5/11ths is devoted to the Sedgley Urban District, 2/11ths to the Tettenhall Urban District and 4/11ths to the Staffordshire County Council. As Assistant County Medical Officer he is in charge of School Medical Inspections, School Clinics, Minor Ailment Clinics and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics. He further deals with examinations under the Children and Young Persons Act, 1933, Ascertainment of Handicapped Pupils and Medical Examinations of Entrants to the Teaching Profession. In addition to the General Public Health duties for the Urban Districts the Medical Officer of Health also examines Applicants for Superannuation purposes.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector who is also a qualified Meat and Food Inspector is a full time officer appointed solely by the Local Authority. His duties are concerned with General Sanitation and Food Hygiene, Housing and Re-housing, Demolition and Slum Clearance, Improvement Grants and the issuing of Certificates of Disrepair. He further deals with Meat Inspection, Public Cleansing, with the provisions of the Shops Acts and acts as Rodent Officer, Welfare Officer in Civil Defence, and as Inspector of Taxi Cabs. In these duties he is assisted by two additional Sanitary Inspectors.

All the functions of the Health Department are discharged under the general direction and supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, according to Sec. 27 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935.

Public Health and Sanitary matters are brought forward in the Public Health Committee, while Housing and Rehousing matters are dealt with in the Housing Committee and the Housing (Tenancies) Committee. These three Committees meet once monthly.

Three Health Visitors under the direction of the Local Health Authority cover the areas in Goldthorn Park, Sedgley, Upper Gornal and Lower Gornal. Since the inception of the National Health Service Act, 1946, from the 5th July, 1948, the Health Services are provided by the County Council as the Local Health Authority and the following services have therefore become a County Council responsibility:—

1. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
2. Domiciliary Midwifery.
3. Health Visiting.
4. Home Nursing.
5. Vaccination and Immunisation.
6. Ambulance Services.

7. Prevention of Illness; Care and After-care.
8. Domestic Help Service.
9. Duties connected with Lunacy and Mental Health.
10. Provision of Health Centres.

No Health Centres are in existence in the Sedgley Urban District but negotiations have continued for some time with the Local Health Authority regarding future sites and construction of such centres.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

The Medical Inspection of School Children is provided by the County Council who have also established Ophthalmic, Dental and Orthopaedic Clinics. The various age groups are examined periodically and from the School Inspections referred to these Clinics or to the General Practitioner if so required.

Cod Liver Oil is provided for cases of under-nutrition or under-development. In cases of Infectious Disease, and if deemed necessary, special steps are taken in conjunction with the School Authorities to exclude scholars, who have been in contact with such disease. Protective measures, immunisation and isolation are furthermore under the direction of the Health Department.

The School-, Dental-, E.N.T.- and Eye Clinics provided in the Urban District are given in a separate table together with sessions for speech therapy.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Staffordshire County Council maintains Ante-Natal and Child Welfare Centres in the Sedgley, Upper Gornal and Lower Gornal areas. The Regional Hospital Board provides in addition Ante-Natal Clinics in their own Hospitals and Departments in the Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham areas which are easily accessible to the population of the Urban District.

The Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home which forms part of the Burton Road Hospital, and Wordsley Hospital are under the administration of the Regional Hospital Board. They provide accommodation for cases referred or booked from the Ante-Natal Clinics or by General Practitioners. Cases wishing to remain at home are delivered by the County Midwives, who, if so required, can call for the obstetric assistance of a General Practitioner.

The Staffordshire County Council also provides for the care and treatment of deformed, mentally sub-normal and handicapped children. These cases are selected from School Medical Inspections and Child Welfare Clinics or referred by General Practitioners. Illegitimate, homeless and neglected children are provided for in the Nurseries, Children's Homes and Remand Homes of the County.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Since the passing of this Act the former Public Assistance Services ceased and were taken over by the National Assistance Board under the Ministry of National Insurance. The functions of the Relieving Officers have therefore been discontinued and replaced by the Officers of the National Assistance Board. The National Assistance Board holds no office in the Sedgley Urban District.

As under the National Health Insurance everyone is now medically insured, the medical supervision and treatment of necessitous cases has become the responsibility of the Medical Practitioners and the Regional Hospital Board. Other classes of necessitous cases, such as homeless, abandoned or neglected individuals, are the responsibility of the County Welfare Authorities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Hospital treatment for cases suffering from Infectious Disease and in need of such treatment is provided in Moxley Hospital and the Stallings Lane Hospital. Hospital admissions and discharges from and to the Sedgley Urban District are notified to the Sedgley Health Department. These hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Hospital Board.

TUBERCULOSIS

Institutions are maintained by the Regional Hospital Board for the treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis. No Tuberculosis Dispensary is operated in the Sedgley Urban District. The visiting of Tuberculous patients with their care and after-care is under the administration of the County Council. Dispensaries are situated in Dudley and Wolverhampton and several sanatoria are available.

SMALLPOX

Cases of suspected Smallpox are notified to the Smallpox Consultant in cases of doubt who then takes further charge of the disposal of the case. Local protective and preventive measures are under the direction of the Health Department.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

The County Council does not provide for a Vaccination Centre in Sedgley, but arrangements can be made with the Medical Practitioner by those who wish themselves or their children vaccinated.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is undertaken in the Child Welfare and School Clinics, while special Immunisation Sessions in Schools provide for an increase in the immunity of the child population.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the Area Office in Brierley Hill to the Child Welfare Clinics and through the Sedgley Public Health Department to the General Practitioners of the Urban District. Vaccination Lymph can be obtained from the Public Health Laboratory at Stafford.

AMBULANCES

The Ambulance Services are operated by the County Council. Transport for the Sedgley population is directed and operated from the Coseley Ambulance Centre. For Infectious Diseases the Ambulance is provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service in Stafford.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

1. The Quadrant, Sedgley—

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Wednesday afternoon weekly.

SCHOOL CLINIC

Wednesday morning fortnightly.

SPEECH THERAPY

Tuesday all day weekly.

DENTAL CLINIC

Saturday morning weekly.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Friday afternoon weekly.

2. Bleakhouse, Upper Gornal—

ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Tuesday afternoon weekly.

SCHOOL CLINIC

Tuesday morning weekly.

EYE CLINIC

Periodically.

E.N.T. CLINIC

Periodically.

3. Lower Gornal—

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC

Friday afternoon weekly.

SCHOOL CLINIC

Friday morning fortnightly.

The days and times at which Clinics are held are liable to alteration from year to year.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Dorinston School Kitchen

In the Annual Report for the year 1954 attention was drawn to a serious feature in this kitchen due to the presence of two lavatories opening into the kitchen premises, which was in contravention of the Foods and Drugs Act, 1938. I am therefore grateful to be able to report that at another visit to the kitchen on the 8th September the intended alterations appeared to have been completed. The old store room has been divided into a larder, a dry store and a vegetable store by two partitions each containing a door and leaving between them a passage. The old door leading from the store directly to the cloakroom and lavatory has now been placed at the end of the passage so that it closes the kitchen proper off from the cloakroom and lavatory which both ventilate outwards and open into this passage. We are most indebted to the Education Authority for having affected these important alterations.

Roman Catholic School, Sedgley

The unsatisfactory hygienic conditions in this school were pointed out in the Annual Report for the year 1954 and again we are grateful to be able to report on the considerable improvements which have taken place in the reporting year. A new scullery has been built containing a large sink with ample washing and drying facilities. A gas heater provides hot water and a hot plate oven keeps the food warm. In one of the corners the wall is provided with an extraction fan. There is plenty of lighting and ventilation provided by ample window space. This has been a great improvement when compared with the unsuitable washing and drying facilities for crockery which existed in the past. To have all food distribution, dish washing and drying done in a separate room with good lighting, ventilation and washing facilities is a good step towards ideal conditions in food hygiene.

HEALTH CENTRES

No Health Centres have been built in the Sedgley Urban District during the reporting year. At present there are three Infant Welfare Centres in the Urban District which are also used as Clinic Centres. The most unsatisfactory of these Centres as reported on in the previous year is the Lower Gornal Welfare Centre, accommodated in the rear part of the Zoar Chapel. In reality it is a Youth Centre adapted in a primitive way to form an Infant Welfare Centre or Clinic as the occasion demands. After a discussion and inspection of suitable sites with the Surveyor we found that a plot of land in Bull Street would answer the purpose for a Centre best taking into consideration the future development in the Lower

Gornal area, the availability of transport to and from the Centre, and the total absence of steep slopes which would eliminate the necessity of pushing heavy perambulators up the slopes to the Centre or the climbing of heights by expectant mothers. Negotiations regarding this project have proceeded during the past year on County level and some agreement can be expected in the next year.

Infant Welfare Centres and ultimately Health Centres have been earmarked in:—

1. Dudding Road, Goldthorn Park.
2. Land adjoining Ladies Walk, High Holborn, Sedgley.

CARAVAN DWELLERS

It is most encouraging that the problem of Caravan Dwellers has been recognised. It is a problem which has reared its head at regular intervals much to the frustration of the Health Department. Such caravan dwellers after invading the district cause much resentment among the neighbouring population, generate indignation on account of their nomadic and often unhygienic way of living and in the year 1954 the matter came to a climax by the handing of a complaint and petition to higher authority. In the meantime however the actual problem had never been squarely faced until the County Planning Department brought forward a report on the nomadic problem for consideration and action of County Districts with regard to Controlled Caravan Sites. On the 3rd of June a meeting was held at which the Clerk, the Surveyor and the Medical Officer were present and the social and financial implications of a pilot scheme with regard to Caravan Dwellers were discussed. A joint meeting was held with the Brierley Hill Council on the 28th November and the conclusions reached by the joint meeting were:—

1. That both Councils should be asked to consider the allocation in each of their areas of a small site for the use of gypsies and other nomads, the site to be provided with a water supply and proper sanitation.
2. That the provisions of sites in Brierley Hill and Sedgley should be conditional upon
 - (i) the other Authorities set out in Appendix VI of the Report and the Seisdon Rural District Council also providing a site in their area, *viz.*:—
 - Aldridge
 - Bilston
 - Brownhills
 - Dudley
 - Newcastle-under-Lyme
 - Willenhall
 - Seisdon

- (ii) a contribution towards the cost of the provision of sites by County District Councils being made by the County Council.

The above suggestions were adopted by the Brierley Hill Council.

There are of course many difficult facets to the problem. Will nomads adapt themselves to living on controlled sites? Are they capable to be transformed to a regular way of living? Can they be persuaded to send their children to local schools, and lastly: Is it possible to break down the strong social prejudices which have for so long survived? If however it is possible to instil in such nomads a hygienic mode of life as a first stage, then we think we are on the road to greater possibilities.

FOOD POISONING

No cases of Food Poisoning have occurred in the Urban District during the year.

CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL

The total number of cases admitted to Hospital for Infectious Diseases were:—

Moxley Hospital—

Tonsillitis	?	Diphtheria	..	..	..	3
Dysentery	..	..	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pemphigus	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gastro Enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	2

Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton—

Meningococcal Meningitis	..	..	..	1
Measles	..	..	..	1
Miliary Tuberculosis	..	..	..	1

Borough Hospital, Wolverhampton—

Non Paralytic Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	1
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Little Bromwich Hospital—

Acute Paralytic Poliomyelitis	..	..	1
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Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen—

Broncho Pneumonia	..	..	..	1
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Stallings Lane Hospital, Kingswinford—

Scarlet Fever	1
-----------------------	---

Guest Hospital, Dudley—

Primary Pulmonary Complex Tuberculosis	1
--	---

Wolverhampton Eye Infirmary—

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1
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SWABS AND SPECIMENS submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:—

Throat Swabs	11
Swab from tongue and gums	1
Swab from tonsil	1
Specimen of Urine	1
Faeces	4
Pleural Fluid	1
Sputa Swabs	153
Cultures for Myco-Tuberculosis	39

POLIOMYELITIS

On the 16th November a case of suspected Poliomyelitis aged 34 and of the paralytic type was notified to the Sedgley Health Department from the Goldthorn Park area. The house was immediately visited and it appeared that the patient had been removed to Little Bromwich Hospital. Her two children had been taken care of by their grandmother in Wolverhampton. The Wolverhampton Health Department was immediately notified of this fact. A search was made of all close and school contacts among the neighbours and these were excluded from school for three weeks as advised by the Memorandum on Poliomyelitis of the Ministry of Health (Medical) of July, 1954. The Goldthorn Park School was visited and immediate class contacts were similarly excluded. The parents of the excluded children were communicated with and advised with regard to preventive measures. Simultaneously the General Practitioners in the Urban District were circularised to be on guard against any manifestations of the disease.

A check on adult contacts did not necessitate quarantine measures, as none of them were engaged in food preparation or in contact with communities of children. One person, a Teacher, had only been in contact with the disease for a very limited time and was allowed by the Wolverhampton Health Department to continue in his occupation.

On the 30th October a suspected case of Poliomyelitis, aged $7\frac{1}{2}$ years, was seen by me after receipt of a School Notification from the Goldthorn Park School. This notification dated the 28th October was received on the 30th October and the home was visited on the same day. I was informed by the mother of the patient that the General Practitioner had admitted the boy for observation to the Wolverhampton Borough Hospital on the 28th October. On contacting the Hospital by telephone I was informed that the disease had not been confirmed. Another telephonic communication was made on the 19.11.55 when I was informed that the disease had been confirmed as a non-paralytic case two days before the date of my call. I pointed out that the case had not been notified and requested this to be done. When on the 7th December no notification had been received I communicated in writing to the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, as the County Medical Officer wished to include the notification in the December quarterly return. No reply to this request was received.

The World Health Organisation expert Committee on Poliomyelitis states:—

“The standard methods of control as applied by health officers with many infectious diseases have been found to be of little avail in Poliomyelitis. Part of the reason for the apparent failure of isolation and quarantine measures to check the spread of infection may be in the fact that for every case of paralysis there may be a large number of persons with mild or inapparent infection. However, virus studies have shown that, during epidemic periods, virus is found mainly in the intimate associates of the case. It appears possible, therefore, that some reduction in the number of cases of poliomyelitis might be achieved by vigorous quarantine and hygiene measures directed at the first recognised case”.

This opinion makes it abundantly clear that there is still a case for notifying Poliomyelitis in order to keep direct contacts under close supervision and it is regrettable that a Hospital has been found unco-operative in supplying a Sanitary Authority with due notification.

PROPAGANDA DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

This year as in the previous year we availed ourselves of the opportunity given by the Central Council of Information to place advertisements in the local papers in order to encourage Diphtheria Immunisation. Three advertisements will therefore be placed in the Express & Star during the early part of the coming year.

GENERAL MEASURES

School notifications of infectious diseases are received by the Health Department and carefully studied for any features necessitating prompt action and location.

When desirable the schools are disinfected while terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is attained by the use of formaldehyde lamps and disinfection fluid.

DISINFECTION OF CONTAMINATED CLOTHING AND BEDDING

An arrangement exists with the Dudley, Stourbridge and District Hospital Board for the disinfection of contaminated clothing and bedding if the need should arise.

NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

In the year 1955 it was found necessary to remove two persons who were without care and attention and unable to look after themselves, under Section 47 of the Act. Arrangements for this purpose were made but due to the fact that the attending Practitioners were able to persuade the persons in question to go voluntarily, the necessity of further action was obviated.

CLEARANCE AREAS

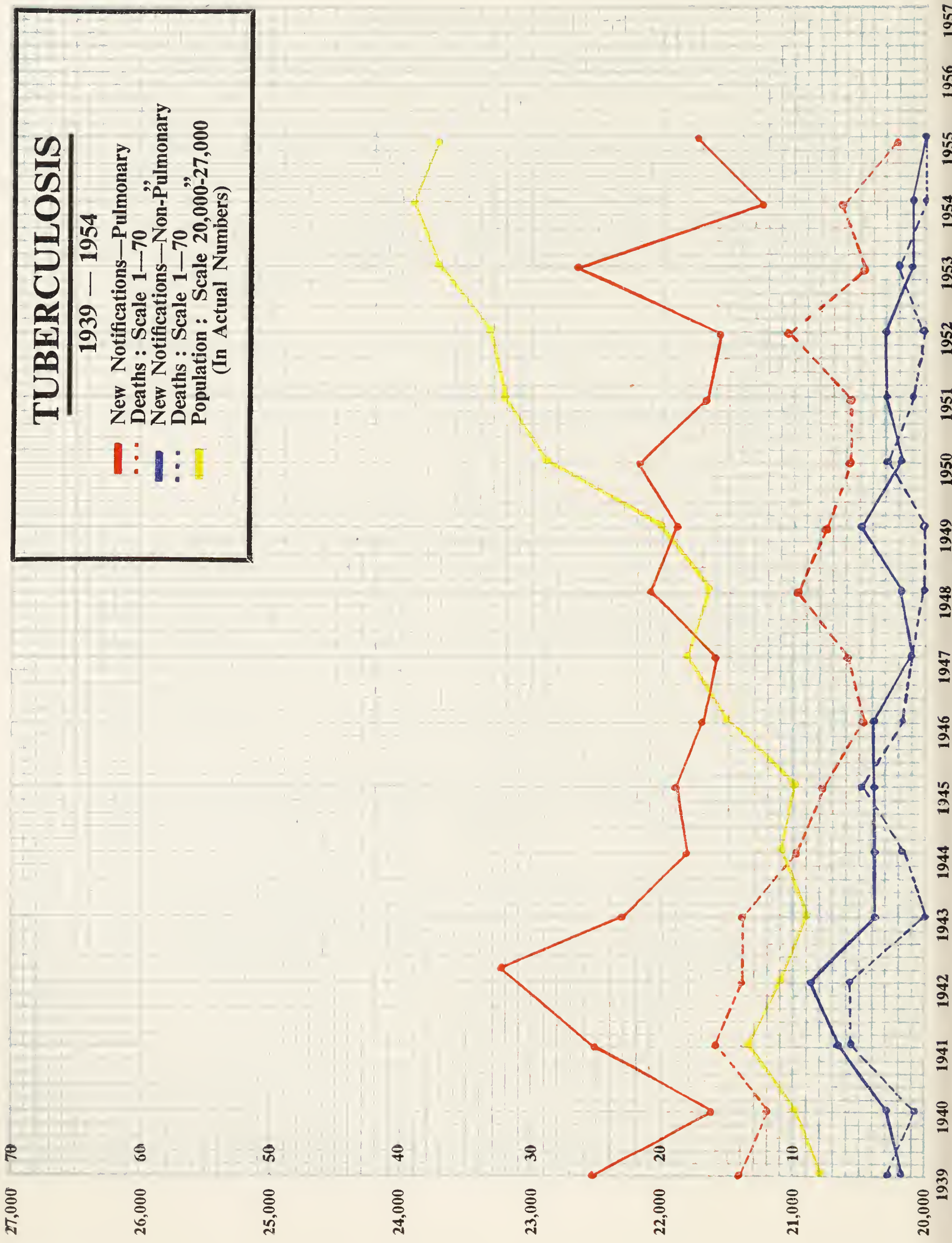
On the 6th December, 1955, Official Representation was made by the Medical Officer of Health with regard to the Duke Street and Holloway Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas, comprising in total 23 houses with 76 inhabitants.

The Kent Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas were confirmed by the Ministry on 11th November, 1955. Together with the Hermit Street Clearance Area confirmed in the year 1954, the Clearance Areas declared up to date comprise 69 houses with 225 inhabitants

TUBERCULOSIS

1939 — 1954

- New Notifications—Pulmonary
- Deaths : Scale 1—70
- New Notifications—Non-Pulmonary
- Deaths : Scale 1—70
- Population : Scale 20,000-27,000
- (In Actual Numbers)



TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified for the year was 18 pulmonary as against 13 pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary in 1954.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Respiratory		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 to 34 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 to 44 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 54 years	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 to 64 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	13	5	—	—	2	1	—	—

Deaths are in relation to the total number of notified cases on the Register.

TUBERCULOSIS REHOUSING

Tuberculosis Rehousing has progressed evenly during the reporting year. At the end of the year there were only two cases on the waiting list, one of which was not a case of immediate urgency.

The Medical Officer visits all cases with positive sputum, whether applicants for rehousing or not, in order to assess the possibilities of spread of infection, and, if so required, gets in contact with the Tuberculosis Officer with regard to Sanatorium treatment. In addition all applicants are visited by him and those living in houses presenting overcrowding or where segregation of the patient is impossible, are referred to the Chairman of the Housing Committee for consideration.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER

At the end of the year our Register counted 140 cases of pulmonary and 17 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172

No action had to be taken under Section 172 of the above mentioned Act during the year.

HOUSING

Houses completed during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1955 were

Municipal—

Stickley Lane	..	..	6
Monument Lane	..	..	57
Gorge Road	..	..	40
		—	103

Private Houses 74

making the total Municipal Houses completed since the war 1,194 and the total private houses completed since the war 358.

During the year a start was made with

Stickley Lane Estate	..	..	84 houses and 16 flats
The Vista	..	..	23 flats and
Summit Place	..	..	20 flats

An Official Representation was submitted for the Duke Street and Holloway Street Nos. 1 and 2 Clearance Areas on the 6th December, 1955.

The Housing Application List has only been slightly reduced and the number on the list at the 31st December, 1955 was 1,105.

With the reduction in Municipal development this number will present many problems and a revision of the list may well be deemed necessary. The slight reduction has been brought about by rehousing and the removal from the list of a small number of applicants. Medical Certificates should therefore recommend cases where rehousing will effect a definite improvement or cure and major conditions only should be presented. Applicants seem often to be under the impression that a medical certificate will guarantee an early rehousing but as the Housing Committee selects according to a points system medical certificates can only add to the number of points already granted to an applicant. The total number of points determines qualification for rehousing. This points system safeguards a balanced letting of Council Houses as in housing and rehousing it is not only the sick who need consideration but also the healthy section of the working population in order to prevent their physical breakdown due to a continuous existence in unhealthy environment.

With Tuberculosis however the matter is radically different as it concerns here both the healthy and the sick living in the same premises with the great dangers of a chronic infectious disease

being transmitted to children and young adults. The main consideration in the rehousing of open Tuberculosis is to halt the spread of infection and to prevent the healthy sections of the working population from becoming victims of the disease with a consequent loss of their most productive years of life. In the rehousing of other forms of Tuberculosis or convalescent cases the aim is to prevent an aggravation of the condition or a relapse if such cases are exposed to unhealthy environment.

It is therefore gratifying to be able to record that Tuberculosis Rehousing has always received the Council's fullest consideration and that our waiting list is practically negligible.

Housing Act, 1949

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

Improvement Grants

Year ended 31st December, 1955

Number of applications dealt with	Number of applications refused	Number of applications withdrawn	Number granted		Total value of works involved	Total value of grants
			Owner/ Occupiers	Others		
8	0	0	7	1	£2,687.19.6	£1,278.4.9

WATER

The Sedgley Urban District, with the exception of the Goldthorn Park area, is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. The Goldthorn Park area receives its supply from the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E. and to Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., the respective Engineers in Chief of the undermentioned undertakings, for the following information:—

(a) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

- (i) "The water supply to the area in its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.
- (ii) Sedgley district is supplied with water from service reservoirs at Dudley, the supply to which can be maintained from four pumping stations in the Smestow Valley and two pumping stations near Lichfield. The greater part of the water supplied to Sedgley comes from two of the Smestow Valley Stations.

Chlorination is practised at both Stations but owing to practical difficulties, samples of the raw water are not obtainable.

During 1955, 204 samples of the chlorinated water from the two supplying stations were all free from coliform bacteria. Samples of the supply within the Authority's boundaries were examined at:—

Sedgley Tank No. 1.
Sedgley Tank No. 2.
Sedgley Reservoir.
Waterman's house, Sedgley.

During 1955, 26 samples from Sedgley Tanks, 15 from Sedgley Reservoir and 15 from the Waterman's house were all free from coliform bacteria.

The average results for 1955 of the 15 samples from the Waterman's house, Sedgley, were:—

pH	..	..	..	..	7.1
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	..	..	..	..	80
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	..	..	34.3
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	Trace
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	Trace
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	..	..	..	2.7
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C.)	..	..	..	..	.12

Temporary Hardness	..	..	76
Permanent Hardness	..	..	60
Total Hardness	..	..	136
Iron (Fe)	..	..	.03
Manganese (Mn)	..	..	Nil
Zinc (Zn)	..	..	Nil
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	..	..	Nil
Free Cl	..	..	Nil

- (iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, the 15 samples from the Waterman's house being all free from any detectable quantity of lead.

- (iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work.

New mains etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

- (v) The following are particulars of the number of houses supplied and the approximate population:—

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons</i>
(a) with internal supply ..	5,920	22,200
(b) with tap in wash house detached from house ..	570	} 1,707
(c) with taps in yards ..	27	
	6,517	23,907

Note: The population for item (a) is calculated on a basis of 3.75 persons per house.

(b) and (c) are calculated on a basis of 2.86 persons per house.

(b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking

The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking to the Goldthorn Park area is derived from a number of sources of supply and the relative proportions depend on the part of the district and varying circumstances.

- (i) The water supply in the area has been satisfactory in quantity and in quality.

- (ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution.

Number of samples taken	Presumptive Coli-aerogenes per 100 ml.			
	0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
869	860	6	2	1
Percentage of samples taken	99.0	0.7	0.2	0.1

- (iii) The water has no plumbo solvent action.
- (iv) There has been no known contamination of the water supply after leaving the works.
- (v) The number of dwelling houses in the Goldthorn Park Area supplied direct is 894 and the population thereof estimated at 3,129. None is supplied by standpipe.
-

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. W. M. Jones, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.C.E. for the following report:—

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

“No new foul sewers were constructed during the year 1955, but the Council resolved to prepare a scheme for foul sewerage with a pumping station to deal with the new development at Cotwallend Road and Catholic Lane at present connected to cesspools.

It is the policy of the Public Works Committee to abolish cesspools wherever possible, by extensions to the foul sewerage systems, but private development has not been prevented or obstructed where no foul sewer exists and cesspools are being permitted, on it is hoped, a temporary basis.

The second stage of the stormwater drainage scheme for Goldthorn Park Estate was put under construction during the latter part of the year, and stage III which will complete the scheme will shortly be submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

Difficulty has been experienced at all four Sewage Disposal Works in obtaining satisfactory effluents. Conditions are worst at Lower Gornal where the flow received is greatly in excess of that for which the Works were designed. Imminent development in the Dudley County Borough and the Lower Gornal and Gornalwood Districts of Sedgley makes it imperative that extensive alterations should be put in hand at the earliest possible moment.

The scheme, likely to be an expensive one, has been placed in the hands of Sir Arnold Waters and it will probably be ready for submission to the Ministry early in 1956.

Public Conveniences

While damage continues to be done from time to time to the four public conveniences in the District, it has not been so great during 1955 as in previous years, the reason probably being that wash basins broken away from the walls have not been replaced.

Street Cleansing

During the latter half of the year, a second vehicle was brought into use for dealing with cesspools and street gullies and this has enabled a higher standard to be reached in both these services.

The mechanical sweeper has given a much improved condition of the channels throughout the District.

MUNICIPAL CEMETERY AND CREMATORIUM

The Municipal Cemetery was available throughout the year but comparatively few burials took place there, due no doubt to the fact that space is still available in graveyards attached to the various Churches and Chapels in the District.

During the year Brierley Hill Urban District Council decided to participate in both the Cemetery and Crematorium projects and a new Joint Committee was therefore set up.

Good progress was made during the year with the designs for the proposed Crematorium and these designs were approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

It is hoped that tenders for the site works will be invited in the Spring of 1956 and those for the superstructure a little later.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1955

Inspections

Ashbins	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	38
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Council house inspection		..	..	..	..	..	10
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Dairies and Cowsheds		..	..	..	..	..	2
Dirty houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Demolition and closing orders		..	..	..	..	..	140
Fried fish shops		..	..	..	..	..	38
Food premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	439
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	96
Houses under P.H.A.	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Houses fumigated		..	..	..	..	..	33
Housing act	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Ice-cream	..	..	..	..	..	..	131
Improvement grants	..	..	..	..	..	..	286
Infectious disease		..	..	..	..	..	6
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Insect control	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Letting of council houses		..	..	..	..	..	366
Licensed Premises		..	..	..	..	..	22
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	126
Meat Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Public cleansing		..	..	..	..	..	115
Public Health Act (miscellaneous inspections)		..					145
Re-inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	911
Rats and mice destruction		..	..	..	..	..	13
Smoke abatement		..	..	..	..	..	12
Slaughterhouses		..	..	..	..	..	1,013
Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Upper Gornal redevelopment		..	..	..	..	..	303
Lower Gornal redevelopment		..	..	..	..	..	2
Sedgley redevelopment		..	..	..	..	..	10

Notices Served

<i>Act</i>	<i>Number of Informal Notices</i>	<i>Number of Statutory Notices</i>
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936		
Section 39 (Drainage)	3	—
„ 45 (Defective Closets) ..	1	1
„ 58 (Dangerous Buildings) ..	—	—
„ 75 (Dustbins)	61	52
„ 93 (Nuisances)	37	16
HOUSING ACT, 1936		
Section 9 (Repairs)	—	—
„ 11 (Time and Place) ..	—	24
„ 12 (Closure part of Buildings)	—	3
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (SEC 138) AND WATER ACT, 1945 (SEC. 30) (Provision of water to dwelling houses)	3	—
FACTORIES ACT, 1937		
Section 7 (Sanitary Accommodation)..	5	—
HOUSING ACT, 1949		
Section 3 (1) Closing Orders	—	—
„ 3 (2) Substitution of Demolition Orders	—	—
LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953		
Section 10 Closing Orders	—	—
Notices served under other sections of the Public Health and Housing Acts ..	71	—
Notices served under the Food and Drugs Acts 1938—54, and the Slaughterhouse and the Slaughter of Animals Acts ..	123	—
Informal notices served under other statutes	19	—

As a result of both formal and informal notices the following works were carried out:—

Dwelling Houses

Burst pipes repaired	4
Ceilings repaired or renewed	9
Chimneys repaired	4
Dirty premises cleansed	1
Doors repaired or renewed	3
Drainage cleared	5
Drainage provided	10
Dustbins provided	66
Firegrates repaired or renewed	2
Floors repaired	1
Hot water system repaired	1
House roofs repaired	21
Miscellaneous repairs	32
Outbuildings repaired	2
Plasterwork repaired	21
Re-decorating carried out	4
Sink waste pipes repaired	2
Spouting repaired	1
Stair treads repaired	1
Sheds demolished	1
Walls pointed	9
Walls limewashed	6
Washing boilers renewed	1
Water supply re-introduced	1
W.C.'s cleansed	19
W.C.'s repaired	5
W.C. cisterns repaired	5
W.C.'s provided	5
Windows repaired	11
Window provided	1
Yards cleansed	16
Yard paving relaid	2

Food Premises

Food premises cleansed	30
Slaughterhouse defects remedied	44
Screening of food in shops	7
Ventilation improved	1
Ratproofing	1
New shop window provided	1

Proceedings

No proceedings were instituted during the year.

Demolition and Closing Orders

HOUSING ACT, 1936		Number of houses	Number of persons displaced
1.	Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	24	31
2.	Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	2	8
3.	Parts of buildings closed under Section 12	3	10
HOUSING ACT, 1949			
1.	Closing Orders under Section 3 (1) ..	—	—
2.	Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2)	—	—

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953

Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1) — —

Repairs

		Number of houses
INFORMAL ACTION		
1.	Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts	46
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS		
2.	PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS	
	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
	(a) by owners	17
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—
3.	HOUSING ACT, 1936	
	Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16)	
	(a) by owners	—
	(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	—

Shops Act 1912—1950

All shops were visited and all relevant provisions of the Act were adhered to. The following table gives the number of various shops and businesses situated in the Urban District:—

Chemists	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Stationers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Drapers	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Radio and Electrical Dealers				..	..	..	9
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
General Dealers		..	..	..	..	..	72
Newsagents	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Hairdressers	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Post Offices	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fried Fish Shops		..	..	..	..	..	13
Hardware	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Second Hand Furniture			..	..	..	..	2
Ladies' and Men's Outfitters	..			..	..	..	4
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Dry Cleaners	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Boot and Shoe Shops			..	..	..	..	4
Paint Stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Tobacconist	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Snack Bar	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Furniture Dealers		..	..	..	..	..	1
Cycle Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gas Showrooms		..	..	..	..	..	1
Electrical Showrooms	..		..	..	..	..	1
Watch Makers		..	..	..	..	..	1
Boot and Shoe Repairers		..	..	..	..	..	4
Wines and Spirits	..		..	..	..	..	1
Corn and Seed Merchants		..	..	..	..	..	2
Printers	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Licensed Premises				..	..	..	54

Pet Animals Act 1951

No applications have been received under the above mentioned Act.

FOOD PREMISES AND HYGIENE

It is perhaps little realised that Food Inspection and Hygiene form the corner stone of the system designed to safeguard the public health. Any slackness in this field can result in epidemiological outbreaks as most outbreaks in modern times have been initiated by contaminated food. Housing and rehousing in comparison are of secondary importance as their effects on health are mainly long term and confined to small sections of the total population. Houses or premises in themselves have rarely been the cause of epidemics. With food production and food distribution the issues are radically different as any slacking of vigilance may result in outbreaks of disease on a large scale.

This potential danger of directly affecting the health of large proportions of the population is ever present. We can therefore not allow the inspection and sampling of food and the enforcement of food hygiene to be overshadowed by housing and rehousing matters, which are necessarily of secondary importance and not of immediate consequences to the health of the local population.

Meat

During the year the number of animals killed and inspected was as follows:—

Cattle..	..	..	1,092
Pigs ..	..	..	5,390
Sheep	..	..	6,942
Calves	..	..	28

With regard to meat condemned as unfit for consumption, the following table gives the general position.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,083	9	28	6,942	5,390
Number inspected	1,083	9	28	6,942	5,390
All diseases except Tuber- culosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	5	9
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	387	4	—	1,224	139
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	35.7	44.4	—	17.7	2.7
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was con- demned	65	1	—	—	278
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.0	11.1	—	—	5.2

The total weight of meat condemned during the year as unfit for human consumption was 8 tons 6 cwts. 1 qr. 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933

13 Full and 6 Provisional Licences were issued to Slaughtermen during the year authorising them to slaughter animals under the Act and the provisions of the Act regarding the humane slaughter of animals were carried out.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

Samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, within this district during the year are detailed below. As this district is not the Food and Drugs Authority sampling of food is carried out by the County Council.

Details of Milk and General Foods taken during 1955.

Article of Food	Number of samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
MILK	52	52	—
GENERAL FOODS ..	87	84	3

Details are set out as follows:—

Milk

Milk Pasteurised	16
Milk Sterilised	16
Milk T.T.	3
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	15
Milk T.T. Channel Island	2
	—
	52 <i>All genuine</i>
	—

Classification of General Foods

Cream Butter (3 samples)	White Pepper
Orange Jelly Tablet	Processed Marrowfat Peas
Plain Flour	Mixed Fruit Cake
Lard (2 samples)	Fish Fingers
Butter (2 samples)	Brompton Cough Lozenges
Pork Sausage (8 samples)	Ground Ginger
Polony (2 samples)	Capsules of Halibut Liver Oil B.P.
Smoked Sausages	Stewed Steak
Princess Marshmallows	Orange Jelly Marmalade
Milk Chocolate Chewing Nuts	Blackcurrant Jam
Eucalyptus Gums	Marzipan
Custard Powder	Cherrylade FFS
Wine Jelly	Cocktail Sausages
Worcestershire Sauce	Skinless Frankfurter
Mint	Salmon Pate
Ground Rice	Bread and Butter
Pork Luncheon Meat	Beef Sausage (2 samples)
Butter Drops (2 samples)	British Sherry
Malt Vinegar	Green Ginger Wine
Garden Peas	Braised Cubed Beef Steak
Lemon Curd	Strawberries in Syrup

Ferguzade	Sulphur Tablets
Mixed Spice	Concentrated Ginger
Ground Cinnamon	Tarmeric Powder
Raspberry Crystals	Cream Toffee
Swiss Roll	Christmas Pudding
Apple Jelly	Fruit Cocktail
Bran Flakes	Beans in Tomato Sauce with Pork
Demerara Sugar	Meat Soup
Corn Flour	Ginger Cordial
Chocolate Ginger	Ice Cream
Milk Chocolate	Chocolate Cream
Condensed Tomato Soup	Fruit Pastilles
Creamed Rice	Tea
Apricot Jam	Stuffing with Shredded Suet
Butter Mint Bon Bons	Blanc-Mange Powder
	Mincemeat

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

Bran Flakes—Formal—Infested with dead and living mites. Very old stock. Withdrawn.

Beef Sausage—Formal—containing undeclared preservative. Preservative now being declared.

Sulphur Tablets—Formal—containing an excessive amount of talc.
Sugar coating now being used.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk

In addition 46 samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. 2 samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test.

[illegible]

Biological Tests for Tuberculosis in Samples of Milk

During the year three samples were submitted to the Biological Test for tuberculosis and all proved negative.

Designation	Number	Negative	Positive
Tuberculin Tested (F.B.)	3	3	—
Undesignated ..	Nil	—	—

Icecream

We give below the number of samples taken by the Sedgley Health Department during the year:—

Grade I	39
Grade II	7
Grade III	1
Grade IV	3

The producers were informed of the results and further samples taken. These proved to remain satisfactory afterwards.

Inspection of Other Foods

Poultry was inspected during the month of December, classified as follows:—

Fowl	3,190
Turkeys	2,400
Geese	600

Condemned 1 fowl decomposed and bruised.

In addition a table is given of foods condemned by the Department in 1955.

Tins of meat	31
„ „ fruit	26
„ „ peas	25
„ „ milk	14
„ „ cream	10
„ „ tomatoes	8
„ „ beans	8
„ „ fish	6
„ „ soup	4

Tins of meat paste	..	..	..	1
„ „ fruit juice	..	..	..	1
Jars of fish paste	..	..	..	2
Stewing meat	..	..	..	78 lbs.
Cheese	..	..	..	44½ lbs.

Milk Licences. Supplementary and Dealers.

The following licences were issued as tabulated below:—

Pasteurised,	Dealers	..	4	Supplementary	..	9
Tuberculin Tested,	„	..	1	„	..	9
Sterilised,	„	..	50	„	..	10

Food Premises

All food premises have been periodically visited and no special problems had to be dealt with during the reporting year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	7	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	60	71	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises)	6	6	2	—
Total ..	73	84	5	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	1	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	18	8	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	1	—	—
Total ..	19	9	1	1	—

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

	Section 110		
	Number of Out-Workers	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.) ..	11	—	—
Total ..	11	—	—

Smoke Abatement

In the year 1954 the Sedgley Urban District Council approved the principle of smoke control areas in the Urban District on a voluntary basis and arrangements were made with the West Midlands Gas Board regarding adequate supplies of coke.

All new Council Houses will therefore be fitted with approved grates for burning smokeless fuels and tenants are instructed that coal must not be used in their houses.

During the year there has been excessive smoke from
 Burton Road Hospital.
 Baggeridge Colliery.
 W. H. Marsh & Son, Dudley Street, Sedgley.

Informal action was taken in the three cases.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

During the year 1955 two tips have been used alternately on the controlled tipping principle namely:—The Humphrey Street and Musk Lane Tips. Some complaints have been received during the year with regard to the tips but after further investigation these did not appear to be of a serious nature.

Refuse in the Urban District is collected once a week and we were fortunate to maintain this rate throughout the year. There has been no reduction in the number of men employed in refuse collection.

In the report for the year 1954 was mentioned that over one hundred houses in outlying and unsewered parts of the district are still fitted with chemical closets. Some of these chemical closets are emptied once a week and others twice a week. Eight chemical closets were converted or discarded during the year. The two men at present engaged in the emptying of chemical closets have been employed by the Urban District for many years. A problem will be created when their services are no longer available.

Rodent Control

For general purposes of Rodent Control Warfarin has been used whereas for sewer treatment alternative Zinc Phosphide and Arsenious Oxide treatments have been given. The sewers are treated twice in each year. Re-infestation has sometimes occurred but in general the treatments have been satisfactory.

Below a table is shown with regard to the treatments carried out in dwelling houses and other premises situate in the Urban District.

Report for 12 months ending 31st March, 1955

	Local Autho- rity	Dwelling Houses	All other including Business Premises	Total of Columns 1, 2 and 3	Agricul- tural
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	16	6,736	275	7,027	22
2. Number of properties in- spected:					
(a) Notification	—	128	46	174	—
(b) Survey under the Act	16	—	22	38	22
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> , when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	81	57	138	—
4. Number of properties in- spected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by					
(a) RATS { Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor ..	8	137	55	200	—
(b) MICE { Major ..	—	—	—	—	—
{ Minor ..	—	13	6	19	—
5. Number of infested pro- perties (in Sec. 4) treated by the Local Authority	8	150	61	219	—

Insect Pests

With regard to Insect Pests there has been little to report. No trouble has been experienced on the refuse tips and no complaints have been received with regard to flies in Slaughterhouses.

